(a) the number of industrial growth centres allotted to Karnataka and their locations thereof?

(b) whether the Government propose to set up any industrial growth centre in Belgaum also;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government also propose to set up industrial growth centre at block level in the backward areas of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the growth centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (f). Under the Growth Centre Scheme, Karnataka has been allotted three growth centre namely; Dharwad, Hassan and Raichur, Selection of sites for growth centres is done on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments. The State Government proposals did not include Belgaum. The project reports for the 3 growth centres of Karnataka have already been approved and a sum of Rs. 2 crores each has been released towards Central assistance.

There is no proposal to set up industrial growth centres at block level.

Small Scale Plastic Manufacturers Association

3645. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various small scale plastic manufacturers associations have urged the Union Government for rationalising the prohibitive price of plastic raw materials and reduction in sales tax on them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b): Various plastics manufacturers associations have represented for rationalisation of prices of plastic raw materials.

(c) An exercise has already been done by restructuring custom & excise duties on various plastic materials and their intermediates in the budget proposals.

Modern Processed Food Plant In Karnataka

3646. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Liption India Limited is setting up a modern processed food plant in Dharwad in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government have granted permission to set up this plant;

(c) the main features of the proposed plant; and

(d) the time by which this plant is likely to be set up and its annual production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). No such proposal from Liption India Limited for setting up of modern processed food plant in Dharwad has been received during 1988 to 1992 (upto 29.2.92). However, the above item is delicensed

and done not require any licence from the Government.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Housing Finance Companies

3647. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Housing Finance Companies are facing a major resource crunch:

(b) if so, whether they are seeking a flexible interest rate system to keep pace with the demands of the monetary system: and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Non-availability of adequate resources is a major constraint faced by the housing finance companies.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Housing Finance institutions are reported to be seeking a variable rate mortgage system and this has been raised in their discussions with National Housing Bank.

Satellite IRS-IB

3648. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second indigenously built remote sensing Satellite IRS-IB has been declared operational;

(b) if so, whether this has marked the country's expertise in Satellite Technology; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARTE ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) IRS-IB launched on August 29, 1991 is the second is the serious of India Remote Sensing Satellites launched for providing operational remote sensing services in various application areas of natural resource management in the country. IRS-IB, like its preade cessar IRS-IA is state-of-the -art three axis stabilised satellite, designed and development indigenously with a technology comparable to the contemporary international satellites. The excellent performance of the satellite on board subsystems and the high quality of the imageries received from IRB-IB cameras mark the country's expertise achieved in this high technology. The continued, successful, inorbit operation of IRS-IB much beyond its operational life of three years with all of its onboard systems functioning satisfactorily, proves India's capabilities in building and managing complex satellites of international standards.

Utilisation of Funds for Poverty Alleviation Programmes.

3649. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sizeable amount sanctioned by the Government for the poverty alleviation programmes has been siphoned off without utilising the funds for the schemes; and

(b) if so, estimate of such funds and the remedial steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT